

REMARKS

Claims 16-30 are pending with claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-15 cancelled by this paper.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-14 stand rejected as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Particularly, the Action cited the existence of the term "distribution" as not having written support.

Applicants have deleted these claims and have replaced them with new claims 16-30. The term "distribution", used in claim 26, is clearly supported in the specification at page 5. Applicants respectfully submit that the defined particle size of 1-60 microns is a mean particle size. Applicants respectfully submit that one of skill in the art would readily know that this particle size range is a mean from, e.g., the patents and applications disclosed at lines 32-39 at page 2 of the present specification. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that one of skill in the art would possess this definition in the claims from the present disclosure.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph are not applicable to the present claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-4, 9 and 14 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by DE 4238378 A (DE). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as not being applicable to the present claims.

Particularly, DE discloses two groups of particle sizes, namely, one group of less than 20 microns in a first coat and another group of 20 - 50 microns in a second coat. Applicants respectfully submit that DE fails to teach or suggest a single layer comprising pulp fibers and absorber material (relevant to claims 16 and 26). Rather, DE teaches applying first and second coats to a substrate, where each coat includes mica but not pulp fibers. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that DE fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention with respect to claims 16 and 26.

Moreover, DE discloses applying first and second coats on a substrate where each coat contains metal oxide-coated mica flakes. DE fails to teach or suggest a product comprising pulp fibers and a homogenous distribution of inorganic platelet-form substrates (relevant to claim 29).

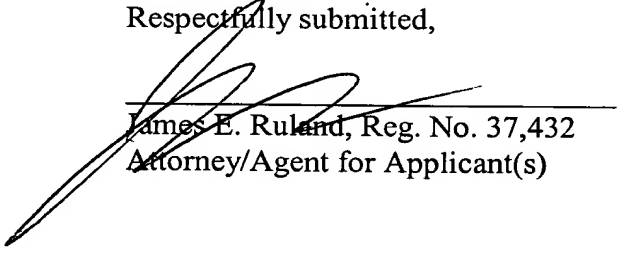
Such a product can be made, for example, by wet or dry mixing the substrate with the pulp. See page 5, lines 7-26, of the present specification. This provides a homogenous distribution of the inorganic platelet-form substrates throughout the laser-markable product. DE fails to teach or suggest such a homogenous distribution.

Moreover, DE teaches coatings for automobiles but not for marking papers. Particularly, although DE discloses processes allegedly useful for coating paper and packaging materials, it also discloses a coating thickness of 10-20 microns. Such a coating is too thick for papers, and would not be suitable for marking (relevant to claim 25). Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that this further distinguishes DE from the present invention.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone Counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ruland, Reg. No. 37,432
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO
& BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

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